

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02

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R 131436Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, AR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: US/GOA BILATERAL TALKS

REF: BUENOS AIRES 2322

1. DEPT'S CIVAIR NEGOTIATING SCHEDULE IS NOW BOOKED OVER NEXT FEW MONTHS AND IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO WORK ARGENTINE NEGOTIATIONS IN. APART FROM PURELY ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES IN SCHEDULING EARLY TALKS, WE SEE NO EVIDENT ADVANTAGE IN IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION BECAUSE OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS: STATUS QUO REASONABLY MEETS THE PRESENT NEEDS OF US AIRLINES OPERATING IN ARGENTINA, AND THERE IS NO URGENCY ON OUR PART TO CHANGE SITUATION; THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT ARGENTINES ARE NOW WILLING TO DEPART FROM PAST PROTECTIONIST POLICIES BY MAKING SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS WITH RESPECT TO PERMITTING GREATER

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OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY FOR US AIRLINES; PRESENT

SITUATION IS INSUFFICIENTLY STABLE TO YIELD ANY CLEAR INDICATION OF AEROLINEAS' FUTURE PROSPECTS, ESPECIALLY IN REGARD TO ITS ABILITY TO OPERATE 747'S. THE LATTER PRESENTS DIFFICULTIES FOR US IN GAUGING ANY POTENTIAL LEVERAGE WE MAY HAVE OVER THE ARGENTINE AIRLINE. IN OUR VIEW, ABOVE FACTORS MILITATE AGAINST THE LIKELIHOOD OF

REACHING FAVORABLE AGREEMENT AT THIS TIME; EARLY TALKS WOULD PROBABLY RESULT IN FURTHER STALEMATE.

2. DEPT BELIEVES USG SHOULD TAKE NO INITIATIVE TO RESUME TALKS BUT WAIT FOR AN ARGENTINE REQUEST FOR NEGOTIATIONS. IF AND WHEN EMBASSY RECEIVES SUCH A QUERY, IT MAY RESPOND BY AFFIRMING OUR AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO THE RESUMPTION OF TALKS, STATE THAT IN VIEW OF HEAVY US CIVIL AIR NEGOTIATING COMMITMENTS EMBASSY MUST ASK DEPT RE TIMING FOR SUCH TALKS. EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO ATTEMPT DETERMINE FROM ARGENTINE SOURCES WHAT CHANGES THERE MAY HAVE BEEN IN GOA POSITION WHICH WOULD MAKE FURTHER TALKS USEFUL. KISSINGER

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